

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

GRANDSTAFF 

ROKOSCH

THOMPSON

CHILCOTT 

DRISCOLL 

PLETTENBERG (Clerk & Recorder)

Members Present..... Commissioner Carlotta Grandstaff,  
Commissioner James Rokosch, Commissioner Greg Chilcott and Commissioner Kathleen  
Driscoll

Date.....March 7, 2008

Minutes: Beth Perkins

► The Board met to approve a Letter of Support for Bitterroot Irrigation District BRID Canal funding for an upcoming maintenance project. **Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to approve the Letter of Support. Commissioner Rokosch seconded the motion, all voted 'aye'.**

► The Board met to approve January 8<sup>th</sup> minutes. **Commissioner Rokosch made a motion to approve January 8<sup>th</sup> minutes. Commissioner Chilcott seconded the motion. All voted 'aye'.**

► The Board met for the Animal Protection and Control Board Annual Report. Present were Civil Counsel Alex Beal, Animal Control Board Members Peg Platt, Vicki Dawson, Barb Ormiston, Ethyl Keel, Nathan Beckwith, Scott Leete, Susan O'Brien, Treasurer JoAnne Johnson and Public Health Nurse Judy Griffin.

Commissioner Grandstaff called the meeting to order.

Peg stated the ordinance had been passed last January for the Dog Licensing Program. She stated they received \$14,000 to date for the licenses. She discussed advertisements in the Ravalli Republic and KLYQ Radio. She stated the Animal Protection and Control Board will have the two year plan to the Commissioners soon. Peg discussed RC&D helping with grant writing both locally and nationally. Peg thanked both JoAnne Johnson and Judy Griffin for all their help.

Judy explained the process of a dog bite. She stated after an officer picks up the dog, she gets a report and when the dog is brought to the vets for quarantine she gets another report.

Vicki stated she works with Judy for the dog bites. She gave an example of a certain instance with a dog bite and restrictions. She discussed county liability since the form for voluntary euthanization is a county form. Peg stated the officers who response to these calls are not trained or equipped for aggressive animals. It is becoming a problem and it is getting bigger. The average house has 1.19 dogs and it is not something that can be ignored.

Peg discussed the authority to dispense funds in regards to dog licensing. She requested the Board's permission to utilize these funds for additional advertising. Commissioner Grandstaff requested a budget from Peg prior to any funding approval. Commissioner Driscoll explained the process of creating a budget to Peg. Peg stated they will create a budget at their next meeting.

Sue stated the Sheriff's Office is not doing anything to enforce the dog licensing due to lack of funding. Commissioner Rokosch questioned the method of construing the numbers for the dogs unlicensed. Peg replied each Animal Protection and Control Board member took 80 names and called them for information. Peg stated the Sheriff's Office does not enforce this because there is no funding however, they do enforce dogs at large.

Commissioner Chilcott asked if they had talked to the Sheriff about enforcement. Vicki discussed officer delivered animals. She stated the shelter pays for the vets and the license. All she asked for the officers to tell them what they want the shelter to do in instructions. The officers will not write down a request for licensing because there is no funding. Vicki stated she has called other counties to get compliance numbers for licensing. It varies from 10% to 40%. Realistically, the highest is a 40% compliance rate. Commissioner Rokosch asked how the county could help to increase those rates. He asked if it was possible to have sticker notification on tax bills. JoAnne stated she could check with Town Mailer to see if it is feasible.

Judy asked if it was something that could be done on a voluntary basis. Alex suggested focusing on the vets and possibly set up some kind of incentive to be a bigger participant. Vicki stated people want to know how the money collected is used. They like to know it is being dedicated to an Animal Control Officer. Commissioner Driscoll stated in enforcement, there are areas where there isn't any due to funding. She stated sometimes there is a disconnect between the parties. She requested the Animal Protection and Control Board be patient.

Vicki stated BRHA foots the bill for injured animals that are ownerless. She stated BRHA has a vet that will provide emergency services for those injured animals.

Peg stated the Animal Protection and Control Board has worked very hard and put in numerous hours on a voluntary basis. Commissioner Rokosch stated he understands and

thanked the Board. Peg asked about a mill levy in the works. Commissioner Grandstaff replied she does not foresee one however it was discussed for Public Safety. She recommended doing the work necessary to get one on the ballot. It has to be discussed more seriously than it has been. Peg asked about making room for two Animal Control Officers in the Courthouse basement. Sue discussed the Sheriff's Office not having room for the Officers.

Peg discussed cooperation with county officials and how they are working with the Commissioners. She discussed working with RC&D for grant money. Alex stated it is fine for them to seek grant money.

Sue stated she could send the information of contacts she has spoken to for space utilization to the Commissioners. Commissioner Rokosch stated we have to develop rationale to figure out the growth for per capita for the animals on a per household basis and relate it to the cost. The Board discussed impact fee and exaction fees with the Animal Protection and Control members present. Alex agreed with the need for space. Commissioner Rokosch stated he would like to see the numbers given to Dennis Stranger for the exaction fees. Sue stated she can get those numbers and get them to the Board. Alex stated the RFP should include a space in for two Animal Control Officers and a staffer.